

Loxhore Parish Council
County Councillors Report
November 2025

Libraries- upcoming Consultation

The County Council Cabinet recently approved the launch of a **12-week consultation** regarding the long-term sustainability and future models for our library services. This is a vital process that requires input from every community to help us find the most effective and efficient path forward.

Our libraries, currently run successfully by the charity Libraries Unlimited, are undeniably invaluable local assets. We recognize the profound impact they have:

- **High Engagement:** Last year, our 50 libraries recorded **2.3 million visits**, demonstrating their status as essential community anchors.
- **Family Focus:** With over **113,000 active users**—and children representing the single largest group at 28%—libraries are fundamental to early literacy and lifelong learning.
- **Diverse Programming:** They hosted more than **12,000 events**, including crucial 'bounce-and-rhyme' sessions, digital literacy classes like Coder Dojos, and social groups, attracting over 218,000 participants.

A Critical Role in Rural Life

We must approach this review with careful consideration for our remote rural communities. For these areas, the local library is often much more than a place for books; it is a key hub for social cohesion and essential access. Libraries serve as:

1. **Warm, Safe Spaces:** Providing a free, neutral venue to tackle social isolation, particularly for our older residents.
2. **Digital Gateways:** Offering the only free public access to computers and broadband, which is crucial for digital inclusion—a necessity for accessing vital services, applying for jobs, and staying connected in today's world.

The challenge before us is how to preserve these core functions while ensuring the service is financially robust for the future.

The upcoming consultation is designed to explore a range of thoughtful options. These include innovative approaches such as revised, flexible opening hours; extending access through enhanced volunteer and technology support; and exploring the transition of some libraries into community hubs.

This transition would see local organisations take on management with ongoing support from the County Council.

I strongly encourage everyone to participate fully in the 12-week consultation. I will forward the details when they are available.

Local Government Reorganisation in Devon

Parish councils were invited to an online DALC meeting about LGR. If you were unable to attend there is a recording I believe.

[A stronger future shaped by communities: Devon unveils 'leading' option for local government change - News](#)

I have linked the press release above. Decon County Council will submit their preferred option for Devon by the 28th December, the final decision about what that will be will be made by the Devon County Council cabinet in November.

Highway Defects

With the winter fast approaching it is more likely there will be defects in the highway network, this includes streetlights and signs.

[Report a problem - Roads and transport](#)

The DCC website is very useful for reporting problems and the reports go straight to the contractor. Alternatively the highway contact number is 0345 155 1004

If it's a river flooding the environment agency can be contacted on 0345 988 1188

Please do get in touch if you think I can help with anything; Andrea.davis@devon.gov.uk

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